

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 SAJ-01 NIC-01

DRC-01 /147 W

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R 280823Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1319

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 8624

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, PK

SUBJ: SOVIET CHARGE INQUIRES ABOUT BHUTTO VISIT

REF: STATE 190163

1. SOVIET CHARGE ILLARIONOV CALLED ON CHARGE SANDERHOFF AT HIS REQUEST SEPTEMBER 26. PURPOSE OF VISIT, NOT UNEXPECTEDLY, TURNED OUT TO BE INQUIRING ABOUT BHUTTO VISIT TO US. ILLARIONOV OPENED BY STATING HE WANTED TO TRY SUPPLEMENT INFORMATION REPORTED IN PRESS ABOUT VISIT.

2. CHARGE GAVE GENERAL RESPONSE, DRAWING VERY SELECTIVELY ON CERTAIN POINTS MADE IN REFTEL. SAID THAT ACTUALLY PRESS ACCOUNT HAD BEEN QUITE COMPREHENSIVE. VISIT HAD INDEED BEEN MARKED BY MUTUAL CORDIALITY AND CANDOR. MUCH OF DISCUSSION HAD BEEN BROAD-GAUGED, AS SUGGESTED BY JOINT PAKISTAN-US STATEMENT RELEASED SEPTEMBER 20. THERE HAD BEEN DISCUSSION OF ECONOMIC MATTERS, PARTICULARLY PROBLEMS ARISING OUT OF RECENT FLOODS. THERE HAD BEEN MILITARY SUPPLY POLICY DIS-
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CUSSIONS, WITH US REAFFIRMING EXISTING POLICY. CHARGE

REMARKED, IN CONNECTION LATTER POINT, THAT VISIT HAD NOT ONLY SEEMED GENERALLY SUCCESSFUL IN EYES US AND PAKISTAN BUT APPARENTLY HAD ALSO PLEASED INDIAN, JUDGING FROM NEW DELHI PRESS REPORTS.

3. ILLARIONOV PROFESSED IGNORANCE OF AND INTEREST IN INDIAN REACTION, AND CHARGE MENTIONED AS EXAMPLE TIMES OF INDIA OBSERVATION THAT US HAD SHOWN IN TALKS THAT IT NOT PROMOTING ARMS RACE IN SUBCONTINENT (NEW DELHI 11103 NOTAL). THIS LED TO BRIEF DISCUSSION OF US POLICY IN SUBCONTINENT, CHARGE OBSERVING THAT -- PROSAIC AS IT MIGHT SOUND -- US OBJECTIVE IN AREA IS PROMOTION OF PEACE AND STABILITY, WHICH HE COULD ONLY HOPE AND ASSUME ALSO REPRESENTED USSR AIM.

4. ILLARIONOV TOOK THIS OCCASION TO INQUIRE SPECIFICALLY WHAT WAS MEANT BY PRESIDENT NIXON'S REFERENCE TO THE INDEPENDENCE AND INTEGRITY OF PAKISTAN BEING "THE CORNERSTONE OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY." CHARGE RESPONDED BY OBSERVING HE HAD BEEN SOMEWHAT AMUSED BY LOCAL REPORTING OF PRESIDENT NIXON'S STATEMENT ON THIS POINT AT ARRIVAL CEREMONY, CHARACTERIZED BY CHANGING PRESIDENT'S WORDS "A CORNERSTONE" TO "THE CORNERSTONE." ILLARIONOV CHUCKLED AT THIS AND AGREED IT QUITE OBVIOUS THAT WORDS "THE CORNERSTONE" NOT RPT NOT APPROPRIATE OR ACCURATE. CHARGE AND ILLARIONOV CONCURRED THAT MEANING OF PRESIDENT'S WORDS WAS SIMPLY THAT PAKISTAN'S INDEPENDENCE AND INTEGRITY ARE IMPORTANT TO US.

5. ILLARIONOV REFERRED AGAIN TO US MILITARY SUPPLY POLICY, AND WAS ASSURED THAT THIS HAD INDEED NOT RPT NOT BEEN CHANGED AS RESULT OF VISIT.

6. CHARGE CONCLUDED BY OBSERVING THAT VISIT HAD CONSTITUTED VERY SUCCESSFUL GOODWILL TRIP, AND HAD PROJECTED HIGHLY FAVORABLE IMAGE OF PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO TO AMERICANS.

7. COMMENT: ILLARIONOV SEEMED TO CHARGE TO BE MAINLY INTERESTED IN PROBING INTO POSSIBILITY MIGHT HAVE BEEN CONFIDENTIAL

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NEW SECURITY COMMITMENTS FROM US, AS SHOWN BY EMPHASIS HE GAVE TO MILITARY SUPPLY QUESTION, MEANING OF "CORNERSTONS", ETC.
SANDERHOFF

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